

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RECOVERING MANAGEMENT OF NETWORK
ELEMENT(S) RESPONSIVE TO FAILURE OF A DISTRIBUTED GATEWAY****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A system and method are disclosed which enable efficient recovery of management of
one or more network elements responsive to failure of a gateway responsible for managing
such one or more network elements. According to at least one embodiment, operation of a
plurality of distributed gateways that are each responsible for managing one or more network
elements is monitored. Through such monitoring, failure of one of the distributed gateways
may be efficiently detected, and responsive to detection of a failed gateway, management of
the network element(s) for which such failed gateway had management responsibility may be
efficiently recovered by allocating responsibility of management activities for which a
detected failed gateway had responsibility to one or more available gateways. Allocation of
10 such management activities may be performed in a manner that balances the operational load
placed on such available gateways.